



# Conservation Security Program 2005

## USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

### West Galveston Bay Watershed Fact Sheet

January 2005

#### Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers that are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

#### Watershed Approach

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding in 2005. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide. Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- Wide variety of land uses and input intensities
- High-priority resource issues to be addressed
- History of good land stewardship
- Availability of necessary technical tools
- Availability of NRCS staff to implement CSP

#### West Galveston Bay Watershed

The West Galveston Bay Watershed in CSP is being offered from 202 watersheds across the country – 18 of which were selected in Texas for CSP 2005. In the Gulf Coast, West Galveston Bay Watershed in southeast Texas covers an estimated 900,200 acres within portions of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, and Harris Counties. The watershed area is a combination of the Gulf Coast Prairie and Gulf Coast Marshy Prairie resource areas consisting of rangeland, dry cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland as its major land uses.

The map on the following page outlines the general watershed area. Producers in parts of these counties may qualify to participate in the program.

#### For More Information

For more information about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or contact Grady Dillard, Rosenberg Watershed Manager at 281.232.6898. Information is available at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

All CSP applications that meet the minimum soil and water quality criteria will be placed in an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking categories to be funded. Check the CSP national page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp> for information on the final rule.

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